

1 TAMARA BEATTY PETERSON, ESQ., Bar No. 5218
2 tpeterson@petersonbaker.com
3 NIKKI L. BAKER, ESQ., Bar No. 6562
4 nbaker@petersonbaker.com
5 PETERSON BAKER, PLLC
6 10001 Park Run Drive
7 Las Vegas, NV 89145
8 Telephone: 702.786.1001
9 Facsimile: 702.786.1002

10 L. LIN WOOD, ESQ. (*will comply with LR 1A 11-2 within 45 days*)
11 lwood@linwoodlaw.com
12 NICOLE JENNINGS WADE, ESQ. (*will comply with LR 1A 11-2 within 45 days*)
13 nwade@linwoodlaw.com
14 G. TAYLOR WILSON, ESQ. (*will comply with LR 1A 11-2 within 45 days*)
15 twilson@linwoodlaw.com
16 L. LIN WOOD, P.C.
17 1180 West Peachtree Street, Suite 2400
18 Atlanta, Georgia 30309
19 Telephone: 404.891.1402
20 Facsimile: 404.506.9111

21 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Steve Wynn*

22 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

23 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

24 STEVE WYNN, an individual,

25 Case No.:

26 Plaintiff,

27 **COMPLAINT FOR DEFAMATION**

28 v.

29 LISA BLOOM, an individual; and THE
30 BLOOM FIRM, a California Professional
31 Corporation,

32 **JURY DEMAND**

33 Defendants.

34 COMES NOW Plaintiff, Steve Wynn, and respectfully states his Complaint for Defamation
35 against Defendants, Lisa Bloom and The Bloom Firm, as follows:

36 **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

37 1. Plaintiff Steve Wynn ("Mr. Wynn") brings this action to redress false accusations
38 by Defendants published in a press release, which was a public relations ploy intended to pressure
39 Mr. Wynn into paying money to Defendants and their alleged client for a bogus claim of sexual
40 harassment and retaliation.

PETERSON BAKER, PLLC
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89145
702.786.1001

1 2. Mr. Wynn is a visionary, a successful businessman, and a philanthropist.

2 3. Mr. Wynn has been active in the casino and resort development in Las Vegas and
3 beyond for more than forty-five (45) years.

4 4. Mr. Wynn is well-known and recognized for his role in the revitalization of the Las
5 Vegas Strip in the 1990s.

6 5. Mr. Wynn is the entrepreneurial figure behind many of Las Vegas's most distinctive
7 resorts, including The Mirage, Treasure Island, Bellagio, Encore and Wynn Las Vegas.

8 6. In its March 2011 issue, Barron's Magazine recognized Mr. Wynn as one of the top
9 30 World's Best CEOs.

10 7. In November of 2014, Mr. Wynn was ranked 17th out of the world's 100 best-
11 performing CEOs by Harvard Business Review.

12 8. In its December 2017 100th Anniversary Issue, Forbes Magazine featured an essay
13 by Mr. Wynn, recognizing him as one of the 100 Greatest Business Minds.

14 9. On or about January 26, 2018, *The Wall Street Journal* published online an article
15 accusing Mr. Wynn of a decade-long pattern of sexual misconduct ("the January 26 *Journal*
16 article"). The January 26 Journal article was updated January 27.

17 10. Mr. Wynn responded to the January 26 *Journal* article, stating, "[t]he idea that I ever
18 assaulted any woman is preposterous" and "[w]e find ourselves in a world where people can make
19 allegations, regardless of the truth, and a person is left with the choice of weathering insulting
20 publicity or engaging in multi-year lawsuits. It is deplorable for anyone to find themselves in this
21 situation."

22 11. After the publication of the January 26 *Journal* article, Mr. Wynn became a multi-
23 billionnaire target of a media and legal frenzy of false accusations, including false accusations of
24 rape.

25 12. On March 13, 2018, in an effort to capitalize on and monetize the negative publicity
26 created by the January 26 *Journal* article as exacerbated by the current "me too" climate in the
27 country, Defendants sent a letter to counsel for Mr. Wynn purportedly describing their client's
28

1 allegations against Mr. Wynn and threatening legal action unless Mr. Wynn agreed to a mediation
 2 of the alleged claims within five (5) days of the date of the letter.

3 13. The alleged claims set forth in the March 13 letter were bogus and Mr. Wynn did
 4 not respond to Defendants within their unilaterally imposed deadline.

5 14. On March 22, 2018, Defendants issued a Press Release falsely accusing Mr. Wynn
 6 of sexually harassing an unidentified individual who was a dancer for the show ShowStoppers at
 7 the Encore Theater at Wynn Las Vegas from late 2014 through late 2016 ("the March 22 Press
 8 Release"), a true and correct copy of same being attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and by reference made
 9 a part hereof.

10 15. Defendants' sole purpose in issuing the March 22 Press Release was to create
 11 additional negative publicity impugning the reputation of Mr. Wynn in the hope that he would pay
 12 Defendants and their client money to settle a bogus claim of sexual harassment.

13 16. The accusations by Defendants do not narrow down to a "he said, she said" dispute
 14 – the falsity of the accusations described in the March 22 Press Release can be clearly and
 15 convincingly established by a large number of eyewitnesses.

16 17. Among other false statements, Defendants' March 22 Press Release conveyed that
 17 when Mr. Wynn would attend rehearsals for ShowStoppers, the female dancers would be
 18 "instructed immediately to strip down to bras and panties" so as to be sexually appealing to Mr.
 19 Wynn, who would then sit in the front row of the theatre and "leer" while the female performers
 20 danced particularly "physically revealing" segments of the show.

21 18. The accusations in the March 22 Press Release are false and defamatory, and were
 22 published with actual knowledge of falsity.

23 19. Mr. Wynn never, directly or indirectly, instructed any dancers at any time to strip
 24 down to their bras and panties.

25 20. Mr. Wynn never leered at Defendants' unidentified client or any performer during
 26 the rehearsals he attended.

27 21. When he was in his 20s, Mr. Wynn was diagnosed with a rare and degenerative eye
 28 disease, and he has been legally blind for almost two decades.

22. As Defendants recognize on the law firm's website, "[p]osting false and disparaging information is unlawful."

See, http://www.thebloomfirm.com/practice_area/reputation-management/.

23. Mr. Wynn brings this action seeking redress for the false and disparaging information unlawfully published by Defendants to third parties worldwide in the March 22 Press Release.

PARTIES

24. Mr. Wynn is a resident and citizen of the State of Nevada.

25. Defendant Bloom is a resident and citizen of the State of California.

26. Defendant Bloom can be served with summons and complaint at her law offices, The Bloom Firm, 20700 Ventura Blvd. Suite 301, Woodland Hills, California, 91364.

27. Defendant The Bloom Firm is a California Professional Corporation and is a citizen of the State of California.

28. Defendant The Bloom Firm can be served with summons and complaint via its Registered Agent, Lisa Bloom, at its offices, The Bloom Firm, 20700 Ventura Blvd. Suite 301, Woodland Hills, California, 91364.

29. Defendant Bloom is the owner of The Bloom Firm and was authorized to publish the March 22 Press Release in her capacity as owner of The Bloom Firm and on behalf of The Bloom Firm.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

30. Mr. Wynn and Defendants are citizens of different states and the matter in controversy between them exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.

31. This Court has jurisdiction of this civil action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. §1332(a)(1).

32. Mr. Wynn suffered the injuries alleged herein in the State of Nevada, as well as on a national and international basis.

33. Defendants published the March 22 Press Release in Nevada, as well as throughout the country and the world, by issuing it to various members of the media, on the Internet, and through social media.

34. Defendants directed their tortious conduct at Mr. Wynn, a citizen of Nevada.

35. Mr. Wynn suffered injury to his reputation in Nevada, as well as on a national and international basis.

36. All of the actions and activities that form the basis of the March 22 Press Release are alleged to have occurred in Las Vegas, Nevada.

37. Defendants reasonably anticipated being haled into court in Nevada to answer for the falsity of their accusations against Mr. Wynn.

38. Sufficient contacts exist with respect to this action and the State of Nevada to satisfy the requirements of due process as to both of the Defendants.

39. This Court has both specific and general jurisdiction of each of the Defendants.

40. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A §1391(b).

SHOWSTOPPERS

41. In 2014, Mr. Wynn threw a 50th birthday party gala for his wife, Andrea.

42. As part of the celebration, Mr. Wynn arranged for a show that was comprised of various Broadway numbers and starred Hugh Jackman, along with more than seventy (70) dancers and musicians.

43. The show was so well-received that Mr. Wynn decided to turn the idea into the show "ShowStoppers" for the Encore Theater at Wynn Las Vegas.

44. Mr. Wynn was the Executive Producer of ShowStoppers, working with an Emmy-award winning choreographer, an Emmy-award winning musical director, and Broadway stars from shows such as "Chicago" and "Wicked."

45. When Mr. Wynn attended rehearsals or presentations of ShowStoppers, he always sat in the "house seats," which were in Row F – the 5th row back from the stage (there was no row A)

46. Because of his blindness, Mr. Wynn sat in Row F as it was the best location for him to hear the full orchestra and the vocals.

47. Row F was also the closest row to the stage in the Encore Theater equipped with hand rails adjacent to the seats; hand rails which were utilized by Mr. Wynn due to his blindness.

1 48. During rehearsals of ShowStoppers, all performers – men and women – were
 2 expected to wear audition-appropriate attire.

3 49. The performers selected their own audition-appropriate rehearsal attire.

4 50. The ShowStoppers' director requested only that all performers wear black to appear
 5 more uniform.

6 51. When Mr. Wynn attended presentations or rehearsals of ShowStoppers, he was
 7 always accompanied by two bodyguards.

8 52. When Mr. Wynn attended presentations or rehearsals, he was also almost always
 9 accompanied by either his wife and/or other individuals, including at various times, celebrities, to
 10 watch the rehearsals with him.

11 53. The performers in ShowStoppers welcomed Mr. Wynn's attendance at rehearsals
 12 because he was enthusiastic and encouraging.

13 54. On December 20, 2014, "Steve Wynn's ShowStoppers" celebrated its grand opening
 14 in the Encore Theater at Wynn Las Vegas.

15 55. ShowStoppers was an extravaganza that featured 35 singers and dancers and a 31-
 16 piece orchestra onstage with dazzling sets and costumes.

17 56. ShowStoppers was an immediate hit, receiving rave reviews.

18 57. ShowStoppers ran for two (2) years, closing on December 31, 2016.

19 **BLOOM'S LITIGATION AND MEDIA PRACTICE**

20 58. Defendant Bloom is an attorney who advertises "sexual harassment" and "sexual
 21 discrimination" among her primary practice areas. *See* www.thebloomfirm.com.

22 59. Defendants advertise Defendant Bloom's media appearances on their website,
 23 asserting that "Lisa Bloom appears on national television and radio commenting on every national
 24 issue in America." *See* <http://www.thebloomfirm.com/media-appearances/>.

25 60. Defendant Bloom includes in her biographical information the logos for various
 26 media outlets, including several networks and shows such as The Ricki Lake Show and Piers
 27 Morgan Tonight. *See* <http://www.thebloomfirm.com/lawyer/lisa-bloom/>.

61. Defendant Bloom relies heavily on social media and has used her Twitter and Facebook accounts to seek new clients to make harassment allegations against potential defendants, including Mr. Wynn. [See, e.g., https://twitter.com/LisaBloom/status/977305324209229824](https://twitter.com/LisaBloom/status/977305324209229824)

62. Defendant Bloom advertises herself as having created and executed media strategies to bring down harassers, and she lists Steve Wynn first among the high-profile men against whom she represents "sexual harassment and assault accusers." *See* <http://www.thebloomfirm.com/lawyer/lisa-bloom/>.

63. Indeed, Defendants regularly host press conferences in their offices. *See*

64. Defendant Bloom has made media statements, including on CBS This Morning, and issued several tweets about her representation of unidentified clients who have made accusations against Mr. Wynn. *See, e.g.* CBS News, "Steve Wynn faces new sexual misconduct allegations," (Feb. 28, 2018), *avail.* at <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/steve-wynn-new-sexual-misconduct-allegations/>; <https://twitter.com/LisaBloom/status/977305324209229824>; <https://twitter.com/LisaBloom/status/976885810803937281>; <https://twitter.com/LisaBloom/status/964570905052577792>.

65. Historically, Defendant Bloom has used the media to prosecute individuals in the court of public opinion where there are no rules of evidence and accusations are often made by anonymous individuals based on rumor, hearsay and sources who are not credible.

THE MARCH 22 PRESS RELEASE

66. Defendants published the following statements in the March 22 Press Release about Mr. Wynn:

- a. The headline: "**NEW WOMAN ACCUSES STEVE WYNN OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT VIA HER ATTORNEY, LISA BLOOM**".
- b. "I represent a new woman alleging sexual harassment and retaliation against Steve Wynn."
- c. "Yet when Mr. Wynn stopped in to the rehearsals, which he did often when he was in town, the female dancers were instructed immediately to strip down

1 to bras and panties, put on heels, and apply extra makeup so as to be sexually
 2 appealing to Mr. Wynn."

3

- 4 d. "Mr. Wynn would then sit in the front row of the theater and leer while
 5 the female performers danced particularly physically revealing
 6 segments of the show."
- 7 e. "Many cast members, including my client, considered Mr. Wynn's demands
 8 humiliating."
- 9 f. "She considered his demands unprofessional and demeaning."
- 10 g. "These small acts of rebellion in the face of the most powerful man in Las
 11 Vegas were followed by her being sent to the back of dance routines or
 12 removed from show routines altogether."
- 13 h. "Witnesses who worked on the show have confirmed our client's
 14 allegations about Mr. Wynn's offensive behavior to us."

15 *See Exhibit 1.*

16 67. With the exception of the statement that Defendants represent a former performer,
 17 all of the statements identified in Paragraph 66 above are false and defamatory.

18 68. The events described in the March 22 Press Release never occurred.

19 69. Several of the statements by Defendants in the March 22 Press Release are directly
 20 contradicted by statements made by Defendants in their March 13 letter.

21 70. Prior to issuing the March 22 Press Release, Defendants contended that their
 22 unidentified client was instructed to strip down to bra and panties or "booty shorts," which are
 23 acceptable outerwear for dance rehearsals.

24 71. Prior to issuing the March 22 Press Release, Defendants falsely accused a specific
 25 woman – not Mr. Wynn – of issuing the instruction that their unidentified client "strip down."

26 72. Prior to issuing the March 22 Press Release, Defendants also falsely accused a
 27 woman – not Mr. Wynn – of retaliating against their client.

28 73. As intended by Defendants, media reports on the March 22 Press Release picked up
 29 and republished the salacious gist of the March 22 Press Release, conveying that Mr. Wynn
 30 personally took actions against the performers. *See, e.g.*, L. Eustachewich, "Wynn allegedly
 31 punished dancer who refused to 'strip down' at rehearsal," *New York Post* (Mar. 22, 2018), *avail. at*
<https://nypost.com/2018/03/22/wynn-allegedly-punished-dancer-who-refused-to-strip-down-at->

1 [rehearsal/](#) (last accessed Apr. 3, 2018); N. Dillon, "Broadway dancer accuses casino mogul Steve
 2 Wynn of forcing her to strip during 'Showstoppers' rehearsals," *Daily News* (Mar. 22, 2018), *avail.*
 3 *at* <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/dancer-accuses-steve-wynn-forcing-strip-rehearsals-article-1.3890472> (last accessed Apr. 3, 2018).

5 74. Prior to the publication of the March 22 Press Release, Defendants had actual
 6 knowledge that the accusations conveying that Mr. Wynn personally gave instructions to the
 7 performers to strip, leered at their client and retaliated against her for allegedly refusing to strip,
 8 were false and defamatory.

9 75. Years prior to the publication of the March 22 Press Release, Mr. Wynn's blindness
 10 had been widely reported in the media and was a matter of public knowledge.

11 76. Upon information and belief, prior to the publication of the March 22 Press Release,
 12 Defendants had actual knowledge that Mr. Wynn was legally blind.

DEMAND FOR RETRACTION

14 77. On March 23, 2018, Mr. Wynn sent a retraction demand to Defendants, a true and
 15 correct copy of same being attached hereto as Exhibit 2 and by reference made a part hereof.

16 78. On March 29, 2018, in response to a letter from Defendants claiming a need for
 17 clarification, Mr. Wynn sent a renewed demand for retraction, a true and correct copy of same being
 18 attached hereto as Exhibit 3 and by reference made a part hereof.

19 79. On March 31, 2018, in response to yet another letter from Defendants claiming a
 20 need for further clarification, Mr. Wynn sent a third demand for retraction, a true and correct copy
 21 of same being attached hereto as Exhibit 4 and by reference made a part hereof.

22 80. Defendants have failed to retract the false and defamatory accusations in the March
 23 22 Press Release.

CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DEFAMATION

25 81. Mr. Wynn incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 80 of this Complaint as
 26 though set forth herein in their entirety.

1 82. Defendants published the false and defamatory allegations against Mr. Wynn in the
2 March 22 Press Release to third parties, including members of the media, on the Internet, and via
3 social media.

4 83. Defendants' false and defamatory statements and false gist were published to third
5 parties without privilege.

6 84. The March 22 Press Release was reported on by numerous media outlets, and the
7 false and defamatory accusations contained therein were republished, which was both reasonably
8 foreseeable and intended by Defendants.

9 85. The March 22 Press Release contained numerous false and defamatory statements,
10 including the Defamatory Statements listed in Paragraphs 66 and 67 above and set forth in Exhibits
11 2, 3, and 4 to this Complaint.

12 86. The gist of the March 22 Press Release is that Mr. Wynn sexually harassed a
13 performer in ShowStoppers by "leering" at the female performers in ShowStoppers after instructing
14 that they "strip down" to their bras and panties at each rehearsal he attended.

15 87. The salacious and accusatory gist of the March 22 Press Release is false and
16 defamatory.

17 88. The factual statements alleged to support the false and defamatory gist of the March
18 22 Press Release are false and defamatory.

19 89. Defendants published these false accusations and false gist with actual malice.

20 90. At the time of publication, Defendants had actual knowledge that the accusations
21 published in the March 22 Press Release were false.

22 91. At the time of publication, Defendants had actual knowledge that the statements
23 published in the March 22 Press Release were false as evidenced by the undisputed fact that
24 Defendants alleged facts in their March 13 letter that contradicted statements in the March 22 Press
25 Release and its gist.

26 92. Defendants published the accusations in the March 22 Press Release with a reckless
27 disregard for the truth.

1 93. Defendants published the accusations in the March 22 Press Release without a
 2 credible, unbiased source.

3 94. In publishing the accusations in the March 22 Press Release, Defendants knowingly
 4 and intentionally misrepresented the truth and manufactured false information out of whole cloth.

5 95. Defendants published the accusations in the March 22 Press Release without
 6 conducting a reasonable investigation.

7 96. In publishing the accusations in the March 22 Press Release, Defendants
 8 purposefully avoided the truth by failing to interview any of the individuals who they claimed at
 9 one point were responsible for the alleged misconduct set forth therein.

10 97. The "story" told in the March 22 Press Release is inherently improbable and obvious
 11 reasons existed to raise serious concerns about the truth of the "story" and of the gist of the March
 12 22 Press Release.

13 98. The false accusations published in the March 22 Press Release constitute libel *per*
 14 *se* in that they tend to injure Mr. Wynn in his trade, business, or profession and they accuse Mr.
 15 Wynn of personal misconduct in his business and of serious sexual misconduct.

16 99. Damages to Mr. Wynn are presumed by law since the defamation is *per se*.

17 100. Defendants published the false and defamatory March 22 Press Release with
 18 constitutional malice, thereby entitling Mr. Wynn to an award of punitive damages.

19 101. Defendants' conduct was willful and demonstrates that entire want of care that raises
 20 a conscious indifference to consequences.

21 102. Mr. Wynn is further entitled to an award of punitive damages to punish Defendants
 22 for their unlawful conduct and to deter them from repeating such misconduct in the future.

23 103. As a result of Defendants' conduct, Mr. Wynn has incurred attorneys' fees and costs
 24 for the protection of his interests.

25 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, Steve Wynn, respectfully prays for Judgment as follows:

26 (a) That judgment be entered against Defendants for compensatory damages in an
 27 amount in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00);

1 (b) That judgment be entered against Defendants for punitive damages in an amount
2 shown to be reasonable and just under the evidence to punish Defendants and deter them from
3 repeating such conduct;

4 (c) That Mr. Wynn recover his reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses from
5 Defendants;

6 (d) That all costs of this action be taxed to Defendants; and

9 ||| Respectfully submitted this 5th day of April, 2018.

PETERSON BAKER, PLLC

By: /s/ Tamara Beatty Peterson

TAMARA BEATTY PETERSON, ESQ., Bar No. 5218
tpeterson@petersonbaker.com
NIKKI L. BAKER, ESQ., Bar No. 6562
nbaker@petersonbaker.com
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89145
Telephone: 702.786.1001
Facsimile: 702.786.1002

L. LIN WOOD, ESQ.

(will comply with LR 1A 11-2 within 45 days)

lwood@linwoodlaw.com

NICOLE JENNINGS WADE, ESQ.

(will comply with LR 1A 11-2)

nwade@linwoodlaw.com
G. TAYLOR WILSON, ESO

G. TAYLOR WILSON, ESQ.
(will comply with LR 14.11.2 within 45 days)

(will comply with LR 1A)
twilson@linwoodlaw.com

twilson@linwoodlaw.com
LIN WOOD, P.C.

L. LIN WOOD, P.C.
1180 West Peachtree

1180 West Peachtree Street, Suite 2100
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone: 404.891.1401

Facsimile: 404.506.9111

Attorneys for Plaintiff Steve Wynn

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Title
1.	The Bloom Firm's Press Release dated March 22, 2018
2.	Retraction Demand dated March 23, 2018
3.	Renewed Demand for Retraction dated March 29, 2018
4.	Third Demand for Retraction dated March 31, 2018

PETERSON BAKER, PLLC
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89145
702.786.1001